

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously presented) In a process for the recovery of a chemokine expressed in prokaryotic host cells as inclusion bodies and its subsequent purification, comprising a step of solubilization of aggregated chemokine protein in inclusion bodies/denaturation and a step of renaturation/refolding, the improvement consisting of interposing a Reverse Phase Chromatography step between the step of solubilization of the aggregated proteins in the inclusion bodies/denaturation and the renaturation/refolding step.

2. (Original) The process of claim 1, in which the prokaryotic cells are bacterial cells.

3. (Previously presented) The process of claim 2, in which the bacterial cells are *Escherichia coli* cells.

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the chemokine is the mutant protein having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

6. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, characterized in that the following steps are performed:

a) solubilizing the aggregated chemokine proteins in the inclusion bodies;

b) subjecting the solubilized chemokine proteins to Reverse Phase Chromatography;

c) subjecting the product obtained from step b) to a renaturation/refolding step; and

d) subjecting the product obtained from step c) to a chromatographic step selected from size exclusion chromatography, ion exchange chromatography, affinity chromatography.

7 (Previously presented). The process of claim 1, characterized in that the following steps are performed:

a) solubilizing the aggregated chemokine proteins in the inclusion bodies;

b) subjecting the solubilized chemokine protein to Reverse Phase Chromatography;

c) subjecting the product obtained from step b) to a renaturation/refolding step; and

d) subjecting the product obtained from step c) to two ion exchange chromatography steps.

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8(Previously presented). The process of claim 1, wherein, after the solubilizing and/or refolding step, a filtration step is performed.

9(New). The process of claim 1, wherein the chemokine is selected from the group consisting of C-C, C-X-C and C-X<sub>3</sub>-C chemokine.